

# ALASKAN TOKEN COLLECTOR

## POLAR NUMISMATIST

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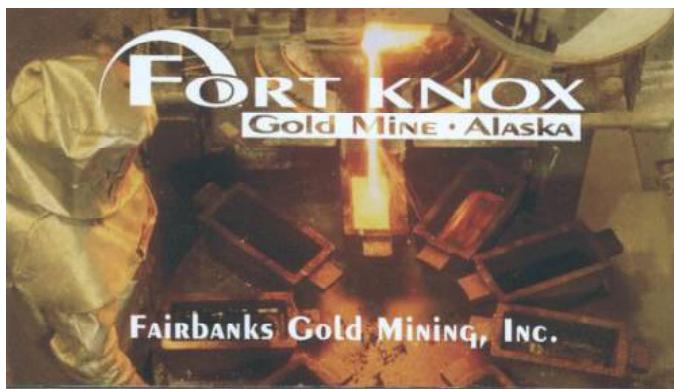
AUGUST, 2004.

## A DAY AT THE FAIR

You know summer is almost over when it is time for the Tanana Valley Fair. Usually, "Fair" weather means rain. But this has been a very hot and dry summer, and it is continuing into August. The photo to the right, by the University of Alaska, shows the extent of the smoke from the fires in June and July. The curved line above Fairbanks is the Yukon River, and where it intersects the smoke is the approximate location of Circle. We had a brief respite about the first of August, but the fires around Circle and Central have flared up again and are threatening the villages.



Always fun at the fair is picking up the freebies. The only true numismatic item we found was the wooden nickel (dark blue on wood) for Jay Ramras for State House (one of the Fairbanks seats).



I must admit that my favorite items are from Fort Knox Gold Mine up on Cleary Summit. The mine was threatened by the fires this summer. The refrigerator magnet is multicolored and the button is black, yellow and green. Going to have to convince them they need to do a one ounce gold medal!



North of 60°

South of 50°

# EDITOR'S COMMENTS **NOT ALASKAN!!**

We are a bit late this month. Lack of anything compelling for the front page is the reason. We will get back on schedule with the September issue.

This month eBay exploded with a large number of Alaska offerings. Many scarcer tokens brought impressive prices, while more common items went unsold at their opening bid.

Selections of your editor's Tierra del Fuego and Patagonian collection can be found at <http://patfotos.org/eng/index.html>. Under "Collections", look in on "Coins & Tokens", "Stocks & Notes", and "Post Cards-Punta Arenas."

Rumor has it that long time contributor Jim Robb of Whitehorse will be awarded the "Member of the Order of Canada" (successor to the MBE). We understand that Jim has to buy a suit for the presentation ceremony, not currently owning one. He will have to fly to Ottawa for the ceremony. When was the last time you were in a plane, Jim??

I had to make a quick trip to Sitka last week. Not another road trip, but I did manage to find some items of interest, and they will be shown in the next issue.

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The seller of this token possesses more than the average amount of imagination. From the description on eBay:

"Here is an interesting token from V.S. & M. Ld. Barrow (Point Barrow Alaska) It has been counterstamped with a 23/3 M. The insert with the coin says that this was 23 shillings/3 pence. The reverse is blank." I didn't get the size, and suspect the metal is brass. Price realized was \$11.10.

Fortunately, it does not look like an Alaska collector bit on this one. A friend in England identifies it as a British token, and the 23/3 is an ID number. If it were a value, it would not be expressed as 23 shillings. It would be 1 Pound, 3 shillings, 3 pence (1/3/3).

## **NOT YUKON TERR.!!**



This item is not Yukon Territory, but it is from Yukon (Oklahoma). Fortunately, it is marked "OKLA". This seller correctly identified it, but the fact that it states that it is from Oklahoma would not prevent some sellers from trying to push at Yukon, Canada

We just thought this was interesting enough to show you.

It is aluminum, 35mm, and realized \$26 on eBay.

# PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

<b>Alakanuk</b> , Alstrom set of 6, B-1	OB75.00NB	
<b>Anchorage</b> , Club, 12½¢, B-12b	OB15.00NB	
<b>Bering River</b> , Hoonah Pkg., 5¢, B-1a	70.00OB	
<b>Cape Newenham</b> , NCO OM, 25¢, B-1f	15.00NB	
<b>Cape Newenham</b> , NCO OM, \$1, B-1j	25.00OB	
<b>Chatanika</b> , Dempsey Hotel, \$1, B-3c	25.00OB	
<b>Chisana</b> , Anderton, 50¢, B-B-1b	15.00OB	
<b>Cleary</b> , W&W, 25¢, B-5a	41.00	
<b>Cleary</b> , W&W, 25¢, B-5a	OB50.00NB	
<b>Cordova</b> , Breedman, 6¼¢, B-5a	68.00	
<b>Cordova</b> , Carscadden's, 6¼¢, B-6a	195.00OB	
<b>Cordova</b> , Club Billiard, 5¢, B-9a	29.00	
<b>Cordova</b> , The Club, 25¢, B-10a	OB30.00NB	
<b>Cordova</b> , Harry & Charlie, 5¢, B-14a	OB90.00NB	
<b>Cordova</b> , Old Crow, 6¼¢, B-31a	93.21	
<b>Cordova</b> , Rosswog, 6¼¢, B-34b	45.00OB	
<b>Excursion Inlet</b> , A&PSC Co., \$1, B-1e	80.00OB	
<b>Fairbanks</b> , Fairview HPH, 25¢, B-19b	16.99OB	
<b>Fairbanks</b> , Nordale Hotel, 25¢,	350.00OB	
<b>Goodnews Bay</b> , Jean, \$5, B-1d	OB175.00NB	
<b>Hawk Inlet</b> , Harris, 25¢, B-1c	OB150.00NB	
<b>Hawk Inlet</b> , Harris, 25¢, B-1c	RL49.99OB	
<b>Hoonah</b> , Icy Straits, \$1, B-2d	27.79	
<b>Juneau</b> , Elks, 12½¢, B-19bi	OB99.00NB	
<b>Juneau</b> , Elks, 12½¢, B-19bi	75.00OB	
<b>Juneau</b> , Occidental Hotel, 12½¢, B-56b	70.00OB	
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Lodge #224, 5¢, B-25a	555.12	
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Olym. Bakery, 1 Lf, B-39a	699.00	
<b>Ketchikan</b> , Stedman, 12½¢, B-60ai	OB15.00NB	
<b>Kwiguk</b> , Alstrom set of 6 B-1	OB40.00NB	
<b>Kukak Bay</b> , Hemrich Pkg, \$10, B-1gi	76.00	
<b>Long</b> , Willis, 25¢, B-2a	OB40.00NB	
<b>Long</b> , Willis, 25¢, B-2a	41.65	
<b>McCarthy</b> , Golden Hotel, 12½¢, B-2a	27.00	
<b>McCarthy</b> , Golden Hotel, 12½¢, B-2a	40.00	
<b>Nenana</b> , Ghezzi, 25¢, B-3aii	31.00	
<b>Nome</b> , B of T, 12½¢, B-8e unl.	577.00	
<b>Nome</b> , B of T, 12½¢, B-8h	29.99OB	
<b>Nome</b> , Cavey's, 1 loaf, B-13a	350.00OB	
<b>Nome</b> , Goodrich Bros., unl.	1330.00	
<b>Nome</b> , NP Bakery, 5¢, B-39a	OB300.00NB	
<b>Nome</b> , NP Bakery, 10¢, B-39b	96.00	
<b>Nome</b> , Pioneer Drug, 25¢, B-40a	450.00OB	
<b>Nome</b> , Far North Trans., B-T1a	OB49.99NB	
<b>Odiak</b> , Storey, ND, B-1a	1380.00	
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 5¢, B-1b	46.50	
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC, 25¢, B-1d	76.00	
<b>Palmer</b> , ARRC set of 8 B-1	960.00	
<b>Palmer</b> , Pastime Club, 12½¢, B-8a	147.96	
		<b>Petersburg</b> , OK's Place, 5¢, B-7a
		OB75.00NB
		<b>Port Alexander</b> , Art's Place, 5¢, B-1a
		77.00
		<b>Port Alexander</b> , Dalsbo, 25¢, B-2b
		25.00OB
		<b>Port Alexander</b> , Dalsbo, 25¢, B-2c
		25.00OB
		<b>Portlock City</b> , AK Cons., 10¢, B-1a
		1,590.00
		<b>Pybus Bay</b> , AK Pacific, 5¢, B-1a
		1,879.00
		<b>Quadra</b> , S. AK Canning, 25¢, B-11
		1,435.00
		<b>Quinhagak</b> , Jean, 50¢, B-1b
		49.00
		<b>Rose Inlet</b> , S. AK Canning, 5¢, B-1a
		1,030.12
		<b>Saginaw Bay</b> , AK Cons., 5¢, B-1a
		1,553.28
		<b>Savoonga</b> , RCC, set of 8, B-1
		90.00OB
		<b>Seward</b> , Northern, 12½¢, B-8biii
		OB39.00NB
		<b>Seward</b> , Palace, 12½¢, B-9c
		28.00
		<b>Shakan</b> , SL&T, 25¢, B-2b
		1,237.00
		<b>Sitka</b> , Witz, 5¢, B-17a
		53.15
		<b>Skagway</b> , Mascotte, 5¢, B-17a
		72.00
		<b>Skagway</b> , Mascotte, 12½¢, B-17c
		OB25.00NB
		<b>Skagway</b> , McC & El, 25¢, B-16c
		9.15
		<b>Snug Harbor</b> , Pioneer, \$1.25 bx, B-2a
		OB45.00NB
		<b>Tanana</b> , Timothy's, 25¢, B-10a
		OB199.00NB
		<b>Tanana</b> , Timothy's, 25¢, B-10a
		RLOB199.00NB
		<b>Tanana</b> , Timothy's, 25¢, B-10a
		326.21
		<b>Tanana</b> , Yukon Saloon, B-11a
		301.21
		<b>Teller</b> , Teller C.C., Set of 4
		12.50
		<b>Teller</b> , N. Star Merc., 25¢, B-2a
		OB20.00NB
		<b>Tonsina</b> , Nafsted, 12½¢, B-1a
		61.00
		<b>Tonsina</b> , Nafsted, 12½¢, B-1a
		OB74.00NB
		<b>Tonsina</b> , Nafsted, 12½¢, B-1a
		60.65
		<b>Valdez</b> , Copper Blk \$1 w/nugt, B-4ci
		OB800.00NB
		<b>Valdez</b> , I&B, B-9a
		OB90.00NB
		<b>Yakutat</b> , Y&S Rwy., \$1, B-3d
		191.37
		<b>Copper River &amp; NWR</b> , ID Chit, B-C5a
		78.00
		<b>Dawson</b> , Hutton & Pearse, 2 Bits
		104.78
		<b>Whitehorse</b> , TDP, 25¢ to \$1
		OB25.00NB
		<b>Whitehorse</b> , TDP, \$10
		75.00OB
		<b>Whitehorse</b> , TDP, \$20
		75.00OB
		<b>AYPE Gold</b> , ¼ DWT
		99.00OB
		<b>AYPE Gold</b> , ½ DWT
		140.09
		<b>AYPE Gold</b> , 1 DWT
		375.00NB
		<b>AYPE Gold</b> , 1 DWT
		205.59
		<b>AYPE Gold</b> , 1 DWT
		OB275.00NB
		<b>AYPE Gold</b> , set of 3
		OB649.00NB
		<b>AYPE</b> encased cent, round with 09-S
		175.50
		<b>First Nat'l Bank of Ketchikan</b> , \$20 1929, Fine
		Buy it Now at \$15,950
		OB14,950.00NB
		<b>South American Missionary Society</b> Collection
		Box like the one we donated to the museum
		in Ushuaia
		57.00RNM
		OB = Opening Bid   NB = No Bid   RL = relist
		RNM = Reserve Not Met   R = Reserve
		BIN = Buy it now

# FOR THE RECORD



**ONE FREE SALAD**

**FAIRBANKS:** Subway/95.5 KXLR, Redeemable for one free salad. Multicolored, predominantly black, red and yellow on the reverse; white, yellow and green on the obverse. Edge marked "One Free Salad" three times. Heavy plastic like modern gaming chip, 44mm.



**KETCHIKAN:** The Penny Man, \$15.00 in trade, 2004. Not stated on the obverse or reverse, but presumably 1 ounce pure silver.



**NAME:** Board of Trade, 12½¢ in trade. Aluminum, 26mm. Similar to B-8e i and ii, but this one has a five pointed star on the reverse. May have previously reported this, but I can't find it in the index. (eBay).



**NAME:** Board of Trade, 12½¢ in trade. B-8h. Aluminum, 18mm. Listed but not illustrated. (eBay)



**NAME:** Goodrich Bros. (no denomination). Reverse is blank except for the maker's mark: J.C. Irvine & Co. 751 Mkt. St. S.F. Brass, 20mm. (eBay)



**SHEMYA:** Noncommissioned Officers' Club, 10 cents cardboard chit. Blue on gray/green.



**MAVERICK:** Midnight Sun Baking Company, Good For One Loaf Bread. Black on orange cardboard, 38mm. Found with tokens from Nome. eBay, PR 127.50.



**ALASKA:** Silver ingot with state bird and flower. Sterling silver, 38mm by 53mm, approximately 2.5mm thick. About 1.43 ounces.

# A QUICK TRIP TO THE PARK

Jan had four friends visiting the end of June, and they did the quick circle trip - Fairbanks to Valdez to Talkeetna to Denali Park to Fairbanks. They went fishing in Talkeetna, and had salmon with them when they arrived at Denali Park. It had been arranged that I would drive down to the Park and bring the salmon back and put them in the freezer. Armed with a thermos of coffee, I hit the road.

It is a two hour drive down to the Park and I had to be there at 8PM. Usually on the drive to the Park, I am pushing the speed limit because I want to get there as fast as possible. This time I left enough time, leaving at 5PM, to visit every bar along the way. No, not to hoist a few.

I am sad to report that the Moochers Bar in Nenana no longer uses tokens, and the Corner Bar is closed.

However, I did meet with success at the Tamarack Inn. The Tamarack Inn is about 5 miles south of Nenana. When we first came to Alaska, it was "the" place to drive for a great steak dinner. Years have passed since we have done that. The beer token is a black on bright, light blue, while the drink token is black on hot pink. Both are 38mm.



Further down the highway in Clear, the Clear Sky Lodge is using tokens of a similar format. The beer token is white on black, while the drink token is white on red.

No other tokens were found on the drive down.

I had not planned on stopping at Skinny Dick's Halfway Inn because I knew they had tokens, and had offered them before. Skinny Dick's is about half way between Fairbanks and Nenana. But the coffee had done its job and a pit stop was required. Knowing that businesses along the highways in Alaska depend on the travellers on the road, but are also used by some that will stop in just to use the restroom, it was only appropriate (since I don't drink) to purchase a few more of their drink tokens. The beer token is aluminum, while the drink token is red aluminum. Both are 39.5mm.

We have a very limited number of these sets. The sets are available for \$10 each, plus \$3 postage and handling per order. Please send orders to: ARC, P.O. Box 72832, Fairbanks, AK 99707.

